

BALMORAL INTERMEDIATE



Prospectus 2019

www.balmoral.school.nz



Tēnā koutou e te whānau he mihi nui kia koutou katoa
Welcome to Balmoral Intermediate School

We are a thriving intermediate, catering specifically for the needs of the emerging adolescent. Your child will spend two years at our school in a safe and supportive environment. Our focus is on providing a broad education which both supports and challenges children to become curious, confident and connected learners.

We value all children as individuals and cater for their strengths and learning needs. Balmoral Intermediate is a school where children feel that they are known and supported by staff and each other.

Our most recent ERO review highlighted the quality of achievement information we gather to improve learning. The review also noted that our focus on inquiry [learning](#), driven by the children's questions and wonderings and unpinned by the New Zealand Curriculum, ensured that our children are interested, motivated and active participants in their learning.

Intermediate school offers your child the opportunity to try a wide variety of new activities, make new friends and develop independence. Our aim is to prepare your child to have the skills, attitudes and confidence to be successful and happy at secondary school and beyond.

We very much look forward to meeting with you and your child in the near future.

Malcolm Milner
Principal

Trish Cullen
Associate Principal

Our Vision

To develop diversity and to develop curious, confident and connected learners



Our Vision Story

Our school is a place where children can obtain the highest quality education. It is a place where students and teachers feel challenged and safe, can innovate, make mistakes and achieve great things. Staff love their work and children want to learn. It is a place where good friends are made, and great stories will be told. A place where children and teachers can gain a greater understanding of the world around them, and where parents play an active role in supporting their children's learning. Together we respect the concept of diversity, celebrate who we are and discover our nation's heritage.

Balmoral Learning Model

Balmoral Habits

Children at Balmoral School are encouraged to ask, “what is the most intelligent thing I can do right now?”

To support them in answering this question, the Balmoral Habits are taught explicitly. These habits, based on the New Zealand Curriculum Key Competencies, are:

- Thinking
- Persisting
- Creating
- Managing Self
- Communicating

The Balmoral Habits serve as mental disciplines that equip children when they are confronted with problematic or challenging situations, now and in the future.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy form the foundation of all learning at Balmoral School. Skills and strategies are explicitly taught in both literacy and numeracy. There is also ample opportunity for children to further develop and demonstrate these in all areas of their inquiry learning.

Literacy

The literacy programme is structured around making meaning of ideas and information (listening, reading, viewing), and creating meaning for self and others (speaking, writing, presenting).

Numeracy

Our mathematics programme develops existing numeracy skills while further enhancing the other areas of mathematics that children need for success at secondary school. Maths investigation work and problem solving underpin our mathematics programme.



Inquiry

To be truly educated is to know how to be a skilled inquirer, that means knowing, understanding many things but also - much more important than what you have stored in your mind - to know where to look, how to look, how to question, how to challenge, how to proceed independently, to deal with the challenges that the world presents to you...in co-operation and solidarity with others.

(Noam Chomsky (2015) - On being truly educated, 2015)

Our Inquiry focus provides children with learning contexts that are authentic and engaging. These contexts, developed in conjunction with the children, cover the whole of our broad curriculum and allow children the opportunity to increase their knowledge, acquire new skills while practising previously learned skills, and be challenged in their thinking.

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

Our P4C focus aims to develop children who are creative, critical, caring thinkers. Some of the many skills practised in a P4C session include stating and explaining an opinion, listening to alternative points of view, being open to changing one's mind, drawing conclusions, justifying ideas using examples and using reasoned arguments.

Learning about Learning

All members of our learning community (children, parents, teachers) are encouraged to experience different challenges, be innovative, make mistakes, identify weaknesses and strive for continued achievement. We encourage children to reflect on and discuss how and what they are learning and why they are learning it. This enables them to identify next learning steps and further develop their learning capabilities.



Our Staff

We have dedicated, highly professional staff who are trained in teaching children aged 11-13 years. We work on a separate campus from our Primary school.

Our teachers have an in-depth knowledge of the New Zealand Curriculum and they are consistently involved in high quality professional development in all areas of this curriculum. They care deeply about our children and are aware of the specific social, emotional and physical issues children are dealing with, as well as their desire for an increased independence.

Your Child

Every child is unique and we look forward to developing their talents in a variety of ways as well as building on the strengths they already have. Research informs us that this is a critical period in a person's life, when the emerging adolescent experiences substantial physical and emotional change. Our curriculum recognises this and is built around these aims:

1. **Relevance:** ensuring the curriculum provides children with 'real world' authentic contexts.
2. **Responsibility:** designing a curriculum which gives students appropriate self-control over learning and accountability.
3. **Belonging:** creating a supportive and safe environment that gives children a sense of acceptance and affirmation.
4. **Awareness:** supporting self and social awareness through the learning opportunities provided.
5. **Engagement:** meeting developmental needs by providing tasks that are motivating and challenging. Engagement needs to be behavioural, emotional and cognitive.
6. **Competence:** supporting children to develop personal expertise, knowledge and skills.
7. **Ethics and Morality:** facilitating ethical awareness and developing personal values.



"All the skills you learn at Balmoral School you get to take with you through the rest of your life."
- Blythe, Year 8

Specialist Programmes

Your child will be provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of specialist learning programmes, including:

Hard Materials Technology
Music
Science
ESOL support

Visual Art
Special Needs Support
Textiles Technology
Food Technology

In specialist classes, children could find themselves designing a rocket or some jewellery, creating musical instruments, exploring electronics or impressionist art, planning a gift basket or making their own sports bag.

"The Specialist teachers challenge you in ways you didn't expect, because it is a whole new experience."
- Emil, Year 8



Arts and Cultural Experiences

The Arts and Culture are an important part of life at Balmoral Intermediate. Children have the opportunity to find new passions, explore their creative tendencies, express themselves, and set themselves new challenges. In addition to school-organised activities, private music tuition opportunities are available in our purpose-built music suites.

Some of the activities on offer are: Band, Choir, Chess Club, Orchestra, Mathex, ICT Club, Gardening, Writers Festival, Kapa Haka, Culture Group, Running Club, Robotics, Kids Lit Quiz



Sports Programmes

Sport plays a key role in children's development. Sporting activities teach them to be competitive and supportive. It can help them make friends and feel a sense of belonging. Through sport they can also learn to accept being defeated and develop resilience.

Class PE and Sport

Physical Education and Fitness are built into the weekly timetable, along with a regular intermediate sports afternoon.

School-wide Sport

We organise inter-house sports competitions including Swimming Sports, Cross Country and Athletics.

Interschool Sports

Students have the chance to compete against other intermediate schools in a range of sports:

League Tag, Hockey, Volleyball, Badminton, Cricket, Waterpolo, Touch Rugby, Football, Cross Country, Netball, Basketball, Athletics

National Sports Tournament (AIMS)

Our school has been involved in AIMS, the national intermediate sports tournament in Tauranga since its inauguration. Students have represented us in the following sports:

Swimming, Football, Water Polo, Tennis, Hockey, Netball, Cross Country, Gymnastics and Sailing.

Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC)

Over their two years at Balmoral School, your child will have the opportunity to take part in several EOTC opportunities including:

Piha Mill Camp (Year 7)

This valuable experience includes planning and cooking camp meals, teambuilding, navigation skills, outdoor and water-based activities. As this camp occurs in the first term, it is a great way for children to get to know one another.

Pinnacles Tramp

Year 7 children can complete a leadership tramp to the Pinnacles Hut in the Coromandel.

Waterwise

In Term 4, Year 7 students participate in the Youthtown Waterwise programme, which introduces them to sailing, canoeing, windsurfing and other water sports.

Finlay Park Adventure Camp

In Year 8 your child has the opportunity to attend a camp at Finlay Park on the shores of Lake Karapiro. Here they continue to build on the skills they learned in Year 7.



Pastoral Care

We have very high achievement expectations for all our children. We encourage them to develop a growth mindset, resilience and determination to overcome challenges. Running alongside this is our firm belief that children need to feel safe and supported at school, that they can be who they are and feel free from intimidation. Our staff ensure that any issues are followed up and that children are aware of the consequences of their behaviour. We have well established procedures to keep children safe and you can feel this caring atmosphere as soon as you enter our gates. Children make lifelong friends here and feel a part of our community.



Enrolment Process

Monday 23rd July, 2018

2019 applications and prospectus available from Balmoral website or office.

Wednesday 1st August, 2018

Open Morning 9.15am-12.15pm *Open Evening* 6.00pm-7.30pm

Parents and Year 6 children are invited to see Balmoral Intermediate School at work.

In
Zone

Out
of
Zone

**Wednesday 5th
September, 2018**

Complete Enrolment Form and forward to school office.

Once your form and all necessary paperwork is received at the school office, you child will be enrolled.

Information about our orientation day will be sent out closer to the date.

By Wednesday 5th September, 2018

Complete Out-of-Zone Enrolment Form and forward to the school office before 4pm.

Forms available on the website and at the office.

Wednesday 12th September, 2018

Out of Zone Ballot

Parents notified by email by Friday 14th September of acceptance.

Friday 21st September, 2018

Parents must return acceptance letter confirming child's place for 2019 by 3pm.

Wednesday 28th November, 2018

Orientation Day 9.15am - 12.30pm

Enrolled children are invited to join our current students for an orientation morning.

December, 2018

Parents will receive a consumables list including stationery and uniform requirements.

Monday 4th February, 2019

All Year 7 children meet in the Hall at 9.15am to begin their journey at Balmoral Intermediate School.